

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

For Release November 8, 1970

Carroll 343-5634

SECRETARY HICKEL ANNOUNCES OPEN HOUSE
ON THREE MARYLAND, VIRGINIA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel announced today that open house will be held on three Maryland and Virginia national wildlife refuges during a special "Waterfowl Week" observance November 21-29.

The three refuges are Eastern Neck and Blackwater in Maryland and Chincoteague in Virginia.

"These second annual open houses are being presented to give the public a cross-section view of the work being done by the Federal Government on approximately 330 national wildlife refuges," Secretary Hickel said.

Eastern Neck, on Chesapeake Bay, at Rock Hall, Md., provides a winter home for several thousand whistling swans. Blackwater, at Cambridge, Md., is a wintering ground for thousands of Canada geese, while Chincoteague, on the Atlantic Coast, at Chincoteague, Va., has 10,000 to 20,000 greater snow geese in the winter. All have many other wintering species, of course.

In addition to the opportunity to view mass waterfowl concentrations during the nine-day event, special programs and demonstrations will be held for visitors. Many other species of wildlife may be observed and photographed.

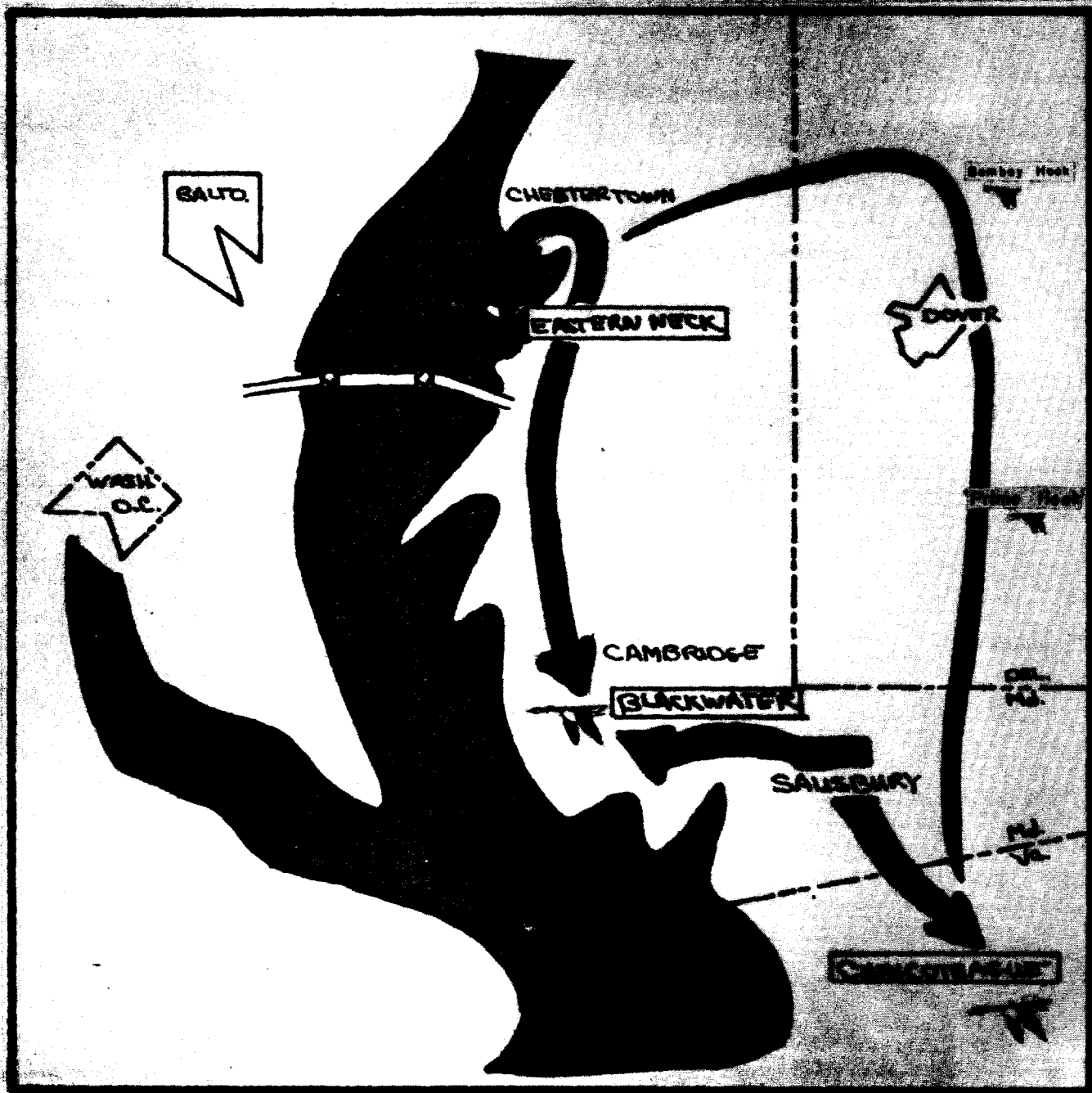
Established and nurtured by conservation crisis and need, the national wildlife refuge system is a unique collection of lands and waters devoted to the preservation and restoration of nationally and internationally significant wildlife populations, in natural settings of marsh and swamp, lake and shore, grassland, desert, and forest.

Further information can be obtained by writing the refuge managers at the following addresses:

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Route 1, Cambridge, Md. 21613
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Box 62, Chincoteague, Va. 23336
Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, Route 2, Box 193, Rock Hall,
Md. 21661

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